99-00743.



September 22, 1999

Mr. David Waddell Executive Secretary Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37243-0505

Dear Mr. Waddell:

Please accept this letter as our formal application to secure an N11 number to be used as the primary, non-emergency information and referral service for the Greater Knoxville local calling area.

United Way of Greater Knoxville has made a financial commitment to maintain and operate the number 211 as an easy access telephone information help-line. We are specifically requesting 211 because this is the number being used by cities in Georgia, Texas, and Connecticut to provide the same community service.

Funding has already been appropriated to satisfy start-up costs, a volunteer governing board is in place, and plans to market the program to the community have been drafted. We are ready to establish a date to open the service and begin connecting callers with agencies and organizations that can improve, and in some cases transform, the lives of thousands of East Tennessee residents.

Thank you for the time and consideration you will give our request. We will await your decision and we welcome your advice and comments.

Sincerely,

Ben Landers President

BL/kj

cc: Larry B. Martin, Chairman of the Board

United Way of Greater Knoxville